

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference 1114WOORD01	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/EP 03/08127	International filing date (day/month/year) 24.07.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 26.07.2002
<p>International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61K31/40</p>		
<p>Applicant ALTANA PHARMA AG et al.</p>		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 28.01.2004	Date of completion of this report 02.09.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Stix-Malaun, E Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8057
	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/EP 03/08127

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-31 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-12 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

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III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

the entire international application,
 claims Nos. 10-12 (Industrial Applicability)

because:

the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 10-12 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

see separate sheet

the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
 the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
 no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos.

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.
 the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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III NON-ESTABLISHMENT

It is noted that the nomenclature of the compounds of claim 4 is wrong. An NH-unit is missing. The description bears the same mistakes. Taking into consideration the definitions of claim 1 and the drawings of the description this is assumed to be an obvious error. The following examination is therefore based on the corrected names including the NH-unit.

Claims 10-12 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Article 34(4)(a)(I) PCT).

V REASONED STATEMENT

1. PRIOR ART

The documents cited in the International Search Report

- D1: WO 01/19809 A (BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEM FAB ;MARTIN THOMAS (DE)) 22 March 2001 (2001-03-22)
- D2: CLARK J M ET AL: "TRYPTASE INHIBITORS BLOCK ALLERGEN-INDUCED AIRWAY AND INFLAMMATORY RESPONSES IN ALLERGIC SHEEP" AMERICAN JOURNAL OF RESPIRATORY AND CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE, AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION, NEW YORK, NY, US, vol. 152, no. 6, PART 1, 1995, pages 2076-2083, XP001020840 ISSN: 1073-449X

have been considered for the examination procedure.

2. NOVELTY

The claimed subject-matter is considered to be novel (Article 33(2) PCT): The essential structural difference between the claimed compounds and those of D1 resides at least in the presence of the substituents R1 of the central "M" unit. The structures of D2 contain similar structural features but they differ in the size of the molecules as they lack structural units.

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3. INVENTIVE STEP

The claims appear to fulfil the requirements of Article 33(3) PCT:

The closest state of the art for the present application is represented by D1.

D1 discloses structurally similar compounds having the same properties which do not fall under the present application as explained under item novelty.

Being aware of the teaching of D1 the skilled person might not have taken into consideration the necessary variations that lead to the presently claimed structures in order to solve the given problem.

The scope of the claims seems to be a reasonable generalisation of the tested examples.

Accordingly inventive step can be acknowledged.

3. INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

For the assessment of the present Claims 5-12 on the question whether they are industrially applicable, no unified criteria exist in the PCT Contracting States. The patentability can also be dependent upon the formulation of the claims. The EPO, for example, does not recognize as industrially applicable the subject-matter of claims to the use of a compound in medical treatment, but may allow, however, claims to a known compound for first use in medical treatment and the use of such a compound for the manufacture of a medicament for a new medical treatment.